

Remarks

The various parts of the Office Action (and other matters, if any) are discussed below under appropriate headings.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner's indication that claims 76-79 and 86 include allowable subject matter is greatly appreciated. Claim 76 has been amended to independent form and independent claim 80 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 86. Moreover, independent claim 70 has been amended to include limitations that parallel those of claim 86. Claim 70 also has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Accordingly, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 70-86 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in use of longitudinal and transverse directions.

In accordance with a similar change to the priority application, U.S. Patent Application No. 09/878,130, now U.S. Patent No. 6,676,589, the undersigned proposes amending the drawings to add symbols and words to illustrate the coordinate system consistent with the specification. The coordinate terms "longitudinal," "transverse," and "lateral" are referred to in the specification, for example on page 15, lines 12-28, and are clearly distinguishable upon reference to the specification and drawings. FIGS. 1-4 are attached. The proposed amendments are circled and highlighted by an arrow that identifies the location of each amendment on the annotated sheets. A "clean" set of replacement sheets also is attached.

The Examiner's approval of the proposed amendments to the drawings, and withdrawal of the rejection, is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 and § 103

Claims 70-75 and 80-85 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,938,739 to Nilsson ("Nilsson").

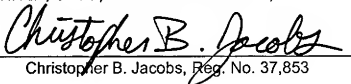
In view of the amendments to the claims based on allowable claim language, however, the rejection is believed to be moot.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, request is made for timely issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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